

## Andrew Jackson to Robert Hays, February 9, 1815, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

**TO COLONEL ROBERT HAYS.**

New Orleans, February 9, 1815.

Colo. Hays will oblige his friend by presenting the Inclosed paper to Miss Narcissa Hays, and ask of her to accept the ballad that it contains. it is made to the tune, of yanky dudle,<sup>1</sup> which was beat along the whole line on the morning of the 8th of January, which will be ever recollected by the British nation, and always hailed by every true american. Say to her if Genl Overton should happen to be passing let him see it with best wishes adieu. I also inclose one to Miss Betsy Donelson, which I wish

1 It has been erroneously said that "Yankee Doodle" was first used at New Orleans. It was probably an old English tune, to which words were written in the British colonies during the war of 1755.

Miss Narcissa to take a copy of and present it to her, it was composed by Mrs. Ellery of New orleans, and with some alterations presented to me as I marched to the church by Doctor Kerrs<sup>2</sup> daughter, about Eight years old, Selected by the ladies for that purpose. this latter would be sent but I am preserving it to present to Mrs. Jackson if we are ever blessed with a meeting, after which a copy will be sent to the Ladies. with compliments to all adieu

2 Dr. David C. Kerr was hospital surgeon at New Orleans.